VALUES EDUCATION: INTEREST AND INVESTMENT

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In this modern society where money, fame and status are more significant than character and attitude, what people need is not a progressing technological trend or a growing popularity virtually, instead it is of great necessity to invest in values education especially that most of the youth today are no longer inclined to learning such. This sounds strange according to a blogger since developing values is one of the cornerstones of a child’s education. This persistent dilemma compromises various reasons which must be taken into account to relive the interest and inclination of the learners to the said subject.

Michael (2016) in his article published at Goconqr.com questioned the approaches of values education instructors on how will they be able to elicit the essence of the subject without sounding like preachers. Most individuals would agree over the claim that classes honing values seem to be a holy mass in many sense. One among the points is that teachers do sermons and lectures which are evidently long considering that what includes are concepts on being a human, humility, self-respect, gender roles and orientations on sexuality. More often, sessions are coming out as a seminar for familial affairs and information dissemination on particular matter such as developing one’s self-confidence, practicing patriotism and many others.

Application of values education teachings is another cause why several learners do not engage themselves in learning the subject any longer. Michael contested that being respectful to others, as taught by the subject, can be both applied online and offline. This is a good practice however, taking into consideration that most learners today are attached to social media use, applying it offline becomes obsolete. Somehow, people are
getting ironic being too polite and courteous online but being obnoxious and rude during actual communications. This is ridiculous yet alarming. The modern world is invading the quality of values the subject provides. Another sense of apathy and demotivation to learn the subject is the mindset of the youth that such values are already being taught to them at home. They even spearhead the application to their relatives which may be evident among Filipino citizens since then however, the rate is excessively depleting compared to the past generations, only if one will observe.

It must always be understood that those values teachings at home do not substantially include all the need-to-knows of the learners. One must consider technical and much sensitive topics being taught in school but are not being lessoned at home. One among the lessons which is being taught at school is the gender equality, role and sensitivity. Since most of the Filipino families are conservative over such idea until now, they opt not to educated their kids anymore on how to act according to their preferences. Besides, most people are already expecting the school to advocate learning such thus, why the need to exert an effort on it? Moreover, learners will eventually grow and will know such things, many would reason out however, it must be put in mind that it is a critical thing to learn and not just a simple one considering that the youth may be misguided over the misinformation which may be elicited by unreliable sources such as peers.

The third reason which streamlines presently is the thought that learners today are the so-termed 'millennials'. Due to the insistent functionality and accessibility of social media as a platform for communication, entertainment and socialization, rants and disrespect posted on the said platform are being brought out even during actual interaction. This is not a good idea for rants must be kept personal. People around may also get offended and might be defamed over the idea of verbal insult which users may have learned from social media. Learners would reason out that there will be no need to learn values education as presumably, during their professional years, actual
conversation and socialization will just remain as quiet ideas. Even today, students merely socialize within the internet rather than outside their homes. Dates and trips are even being liquified by frequent and excessive use of social media. Though social media is a good platform, it must also always be considered as one among the most enormous influencers of an individual's attitude. It is more than just pure and bland socialization but a social need for the millennials to be able to communicate and collaborate with others compared to previous generations as this would contribute to satisfying working experience once they become professionals (Mintz, 2018).

Few years from now, current learners will become professionals and will dominate the workplace. Character, personality and values are the best qualities which will shine brighter than medals, awards and certificates. Honors received during educational years will just be for show but attitude towards work and behavior towards environment will be for keeps. Honesty, trustworthiness, integrity, diversity and inclusion, civility, and work ethic are among the necessities of the millennials so they will be prepared when the actual working environment has welcomed them, Mintz added. These can be learned only if interest has been invested to the subject.

Lastly, the most observable reason why learners may be apathetic when it comes to values education is that they do not see the subject as a matter which may give them joy and happiness in any sense. Like what has been mentioned previously, they may find the subject boring especially if it does not advocate them to be associated physically. Many of the learners would even prefer Physical Education rather than learning values for the former has a lot of physical activities to offer. It is the odd thing about learning and that people are not being convinced with what others are claiming that it is important and fun (Bain, 2016). This can be applied to any subject having the reasons that it may be too difficult to deal with or to easy to comprehend. That is another problem, learners tend to underestimate the benefits and opportunities that values education may provide.
Values education does not only embody the present attitudes and behavior but the future qualities needed to be possessed by individuals when they are already out of the school.

Lessons taught in values education are too vague that they may come out as philosophical. It is already a reality that needs to be faced by instructors and mentors that having such approach in teaching may result to boredom and disintegration of thoughts. It is not the lesson but more probably, the teachings. Factually, it is hard to teach to learners who act like statues, only there to observe and listen but not to cooperate. In this terra firma where the virtual system is combatting the idealism that values education is a thing worth investing, a mind that is critical is of much necessity. There is no need to restrict the learners in using the social media and the platforms alike nor prohibit the usage. Instead, what must be done is to be goal-oriented for the goals of the future. One must not only lean on the present situations since it will be more valid if the future is to be taken into account. Values education teaches experiences from the past, lessons in the present and qualities for the future. It is the noblest of all the subjects as this is really an easy-to-learn subject but also the hardest-to-understand one. Its application is apparently observable in the surroundings. More than just the laws of Science and formulas of Math, the discipline Values Education hones in an individual would pose the same amount as the education itself: it is a gold which if inherited can no longer be stolen by anyone. Just an investment of time and understanding can make a lot of transformation to one's life and personality.

References: